Report of Task Force on bio-fertilizers

2777. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force on bio-fertilizers on the potential of bio-fertilizer user in differnt States and agro-climatic regions and delineate response areas has submitted its report to Government;

(b) whether it has advised that there is tremendous potential in the emerging bio-tech industry which can pave the way for sustainable growth in agriculture, where bio-fertilizer can play a significant role; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The task force has given a number of recommendations in its report for the promotion of bio-fertilizers in the country, which, *inter-alia*, includes the following:

(i) Promotion and extension activities for encouraging and popularising their use;

(ii) Fixing of Quality Control parameters and Amendment of Fertilizer Control Order;

(iii) Creation of Research & Development and Testing facilities;

(iv) Engagement of qualified personnel in production & handling of bio-fertilizers.

Rapid Environment IMPACT Assessment Report on Mining by KIOCL

2778. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rapid Environment Impact Assessment Report has observed that no mining should be allowed in Gangdikal and Nellibeedu areas by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited;

(b) if so, who were the members of the said study team;

(c) whether KIOCL has been pressing for renewal of mining lease for another twenty years; and